

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 15, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on November 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Commissioners present: Tom Linkel, Gerald Wendel, Tom Wilson and Karla Bauman, Auditor.

OPEN: The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was led by Tom Linkel.

OCRA – John Palmer: Mr. Palmer told the Commissioners that the sewer plan for Reservoir Road is not dead. Earthtek of Batesville could install the entire system for \$4.5 million. The installer would not dig up any yards but would bore underground to lay the pipe. The Town of Brookville would own and operate the new sewer lines. Sewage would flow downhill to Brookville's sewage treatment plant. Mr. Schirmer added that the plant had the capacity for another 1,000 homes. In order to get the grant, the county would need to create a residential TIF district in the sewer expansion area. Mr. Palmer was requesting a letter of support from the Commissioners at this time. The Town of Brookville and the Franklin County Community School Corporation would also have to sign letters of support for the sewer plan. The County will not have to spend any money but will lose increases in revenue due to the creation of a residential TIF. Commissioner Wilson asked that they be kept informed and he asked about an option for the county to end its endorsement. He also asked for a map of where the main sewer line would go on Reservoir Hill and any lateral lines on side roads. Commissioner Linkel commented that there are a lot of sewage issues up there. This will allow for a major expansion of houses in that area and that is what we need. **Gerald Wendel moved to provide a letter of support for the special sewer system, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

Mr. Palmer also presented three ARPA projects that he needed commissioners to sign off on as follows:

\$200,000.00 for a temporary loan to the town of Laurel for repairs to its water works system;
\$75,000.00 for the purchase of 1020 Franklin Avenue for a new 911 office, and
\$54,000.00 for a park study to be done by USI Consultants
The total cost for all projects is \$329,000.00

Motion to approve the application request for \$54,000 to conduct the park study by USI Consultants by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the \$75,000 to purchase the building from the school by Tom Wilson, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the \$200,000 loan to the Town of Laurel for preliminary engineering and water lines by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners signed the interlocal agreement with the Town of Laurel

Mr. Palmer also said that now is the time to hire a community coordinator contractor who will administer the HELP grant for the county and for the Town of Brookville. HELP will pay \$20,000 toward a \$40,000 annual salary for the contractor. The County and Town of Brookville will each contribute \$10,000.

Ordinance 2022-15 -APC Amendment: Cindy Orschell, Area Plan Director, presented proposed amendments to the county's zoning code Section 80.08.03. This amendment would not allow property owners to store rubbish, garbage, unlicensed and inoperable vehicles, RV's, etc. except during construction. Operable agricultural equipment would be exempt. **Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-15 amending the zoning code section 80.08.03 by Tom Linkel, second by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

Commissioners also reviewed the farm building exemption for new commercial barns and agricultural buildings from building code regulations and inspections. Property owners would be required to obtain an improvement location permit and pay a fee of \$30.00. **Motion to move the proposed changed to the Area Plan Commission for their consideration for Section 80.01 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Public Transportation – Missy Ratz: Missy Ratz came before commissioners about the vehicle they were to receive under the CARES Act grant money but have not yet received. The vehicle will now cost more than originally anticipated due to inflation. **Motion to sign the agreement for Public Transportation for the vehicle by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Commissioners also spoke with Auditor Bauman about the need for the auditor to be listed as fiscal agent on all grants. This includes existing grants and new grants. The Auditor's office needs to have access to view all grant documents so the proper reporting can be done. Auditor Bauman stated that they had two grants in the past month wherein the county had to send money back because too much money was requested for reimbursements. It's important that the fiscal officer of the county is signing

Extension Contractual Service Agreement – Purdue Extension: **Motion to have Tom Linkel sign the agreement with Purdue University in the amount of \$48,480.00 by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Ordinance 2022-16 – Plat and Survey Recording: Attorney Reeves explained the steps that would be required for the filing and recording of plats and surveys under this ordinance. **Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-16 by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Quality Correctional Care – Memorandum of Understanding: Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding with Sheriff Cates. The hourly rate for services will be \$250.00 per hour and will be billed on a monthly basis. **Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Quality Correctional Care by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Burn Ban: **Motion to lift the burn ban by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.** Commissioner Linkel also stated that Commissioner Wendel will now be working with the Sheriff on the road hazard levels.

MDI Support Agreements for Government Center/Courthouse and Sheriff Department: Commissioners reviewed both agreements with Midwest Data, Inc. for support services in 2023. The rates are the same as 2022. **Motion to approve both agreements by Tom Linkel, seconded Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Clerk & Treasurer's monthly report – October, 2022: Motion to acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's and Treasurer's monthly report for October, 2022 by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

Payroll & Payroll Deductions and Claims: Motion to approve the following amounts: Payroll & Payroll Deductions - \$ 208,928.53; Regular Claims - \$566,031.54; LIT - \$796,207.42; Utilities - \$399,511.13 and Park Sales Tax - \$463.49 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.

Larry Smith gave a short update on road and bridge repair projects. Commissioners set aside \$105,000 as the County's 25% match as they intend to apply for a grant to pave Old State Road 1. Other proposed paving projects include Half Road, Duck Creek Road and Sunman Road. The contractor is working on getting the equipment in place to start on the new Gobles Creek bridge. Pilings have also been placed for the new Snail Creek Bridge.

Derek Towle of USI Consultants said he is still waiting for a decision from the State about replacing the historic bridge on Water Street in Oldenburg instead of repairing it. Commissioner Linkel was clear that he did not want to repair the old bridge.

Commissioner Linkel then discussed new highway equipment that was needed and could be purchased with the remaining INDOT Old State Road 1 money. He proposed the following:

\$86,900 – portable patcher
\$223,505 – John Deere loader
\$353,566 – small grad-all from Southeastern Equipment of Indianapolis
For a total cost of \$663,970

Motion to approve the portable patcher in the sum of \$86,900 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the John Deere loader in the amount of \$223,505 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve a locked in amount of \$353,566 for the grad-all contingent upon budgets being ok by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

Others in attendance and/or zoom: Fayette Hay and Cyrstal McQueen, Commissioner's Secretaries, Bridget Hayes, Bill Schirmer, Missy Ratz, Troy Cramer, Elizabeth Simmermeyer, Brandon Cowen, Hollie Maxie, Mary Strong, Andy Murray, Pete Cates and John Heis. There were also several in attendance thru zoom.

Minutes approved November 29, 2022.

Ayes:


Tom Linkel


Gerald Wendel


Tom Wilson

Nays:

Tom Linkel

Gerald Wendel

Tom Wilson

ATTESTED BY:


Karla J. Bauman, Auditor